

COLUMBIA GORGE FRUIT GROWERS NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2010

2011 ELECTIONS

CALENDAR

December

17 CGFG Annual Members' Meeting

January

21 Spanish speaking pesticide handlers

February

9 Hood River Winter Hort Meeting

17 Wasco County SWCD annual meeting, 5:30pm. Discovery Center. Call 541-296-6178 ext 3 for cost & information

The Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers' Board of Directors and staff would you like thank Steve Benton for his service on the Board of Directors. Steve retired effective November 12, 2010 after serving on the BOD since 2006. Thank you , Steve, and best wishes!

In this month's newsletter is the 2011 budget and ballots for the Board of Director positions. Each member grower or corporation receives

one vote for the first 50 acres of orchard, two votes for up to 100 acres, and three votes for acreage that exceeds 100 acres. If a ballot is not included in your newsletter, please check with the CGFG office. We may have someone else listed as the voting member for your operation. If you have more than one legal operation, then you will receive ballots for each of these entities. Again, if you believe there has

been an error, please contact the office.

The CGFG Annual meeting is December 17, 4-6 pm, at the Mt. Hood Winery. There will be time for a discussion of the budget before the vote on adopting it. A copy of the budget is enclosed with the newsletter. The meeting will be followed by a social time. Please see the enclosed flyer for details and information on RSVP'ing.

SAIF'S AGRICULTURAL SAFETY SEMINARS

You are invited to attend one of SAIF Corporation's 25 agricultural training seminars that are scheduled between November 2010 and March 2011 in 17 cities around Oregon.

Anyone working in the agricultural industry is welcome to attend, and small agricultural employers attending the seminar will meet one of the four

requirements that exempt small agricultural establishments from random OSHA inspections.

Seminars are held from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and include lunch. For more information, please call 800.285.8525.

Hood River, January 19, 2011

The Dalles: November 23, 2010

The Dalles: February 1, 2011

The Dalles (Spanish): February 2, 2011

OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Fri 9am-1pm
Afternoons subject to change. Call 387-4769 for hours.

TRAINING MATERIALS

The following training materials are available at the CGFG office.

For sale on DVD - \$4 each

- EPA Worker Protection Standard - Orchard Workers
- EPA Worker Protection Standard - Pesticide
- Tractor Safety
- Orchard Ladder Safety & Forklift Training

For Loan on VHS

- Load & Lift (English)
- Tripod Orchard Ladder Safety

EQUIP SIGN UP

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced a December 15, 2010 ranking cutoff date for the current Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) sign up in Hood River County. Agricultural producers in Hood River County who have submitted an application for EQIP assistance by that date will be ranked and evaluated. Depending on funding, the top-ranked appli-

cations will be offered contracts to implement the conservation practices that are proposed in the applications. NRCS is currently focusing funding efforts on improving irrigation systems on steep ground and replacing diesel smudge pots with frost fans. Steep ground is that with an average slope of 8% or greater. Interested landowners and operators

should contact the Hood River NRCS service center at: 3007 Experiment Station Drive, Hood River, phone 541-386-2815.

NRCS accepts applications for EQIP year-round. Funding decisions are made at cutoff points during the year, when applications are evaluated and ranked on their potential to address local conservation priorities.

CGFG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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NORTHWEST HORT REPORT BY CHRIS SCHLECT

The executive director of NCAE, Frank Gasperini, started the meeting of the National Council of Agricultural Employers' Executive Committee by initiating a discussion of the big issue facing the membership: the fate of immigration reform and how to best organize on this issue for the new Congress. Craig Regelbrugge and Monte Lake of the Agricultural Coalition for Immigration Reform or ACIR were present and presented

their views. After a good interchange of ideas, it was the consensus for ACIR to continue leading the legislative effort to achieve AgJobs, a program aimed at providing needed field workers for agricultural employers, while NCAE focused on the various Administration initiatives likely to be aimed at agricultural employers arising within such federal agencies as the Department of Labor.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM


The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a voluntary conservation program that encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by:

- Undertaking additional conservation activities; and
- Improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities.

CSP is available on Tribal






and private agricultural lands and non-industrial private forest land in all 50 States and the Caribbean and Pacific Islands Areas. The program provides equitable access to all producers, regardless of operation size, crops produced, or geographic location. The Secretary of Agriculture has delegated the authority for CSP to the NRCS Chief. NRCS is accepting CSP applications for the 2011 evaluation and ranking

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period. The 2011-1 ranking period deadline has been extended to **January 7, 2011** giving agricultural

producers more time to complete their applications and allowing more producers to participate in the program.

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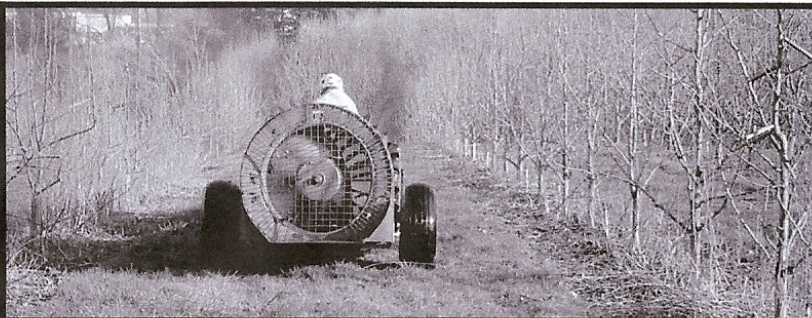
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Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers cooperates with Hood River County on a low-interest (3%), 10-year loan program that is eligible for farm worker housing projects; conversion to propane orchard heaters; micro-sprinkler systems; and wind machines. Each grower can apply for \$25,000 on a first-come, first-served basis and there is currently \$30,000 available. If you would like more information on this loan or would like to request an application, please call the CGFG office.

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